THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Modified Tatkal Scheme for LPG connection will not affect the persons on the waiting list as it provides LPG connection to a person who is in urgent need of LPG connection. As per the enrolment plan, LPG connection will be made available to the persons on the waiting list with the distributors, as usual.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. As stated in (a) above, LPG connections will also be made available to the persons on the waiting list, as before.

(d) Not applicable in view of above.

Production of natural gas from Bombay High

2788. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of natural gas produced from Bombay High during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the amount of annual royalty the Government of Maharashtra recommended during the above period; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a major portion of gas from the Bombay High is wasted in flamming up; if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to control the wastage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (c) The details of natural gas produced and flared in Bombay High during the last three years is given below:—

Production and Flaring of Natural Gas in Bombay High

(MMSCMD)

Years	Produced	Flared	% of flaring
1993-94	12.43	1.12	9.0
1994-95	13.35	1.23	9.2
1995-96	15.46	1.11	7.2

The flaring of gas in Bombay High is mainly due to technical requirements of field operations, fluctuations in consumer demand and has been reduced to the minimum under the present scenario. It has been reduced overtime through implementation of gas flaring reduction project, creation of adequate infrastructure for compression, dehydration and transportation of gas from off-shore platforms to the shore terminals.

(b) No royalty was paid to Government of Maharashtra since in respect of oil and gas production from off-shore area, the royalty is payable to the Central Government.

Supply of gas to Ramgarh Power Plant at reasonable rates

2789. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had fixed a special price of Rupees 350 per kilo cubmic metre in February, 1988, for supply of gas to three MW Ramgarh plant, which was availed upto March, 1989;

(b) whether Government are aware that this gas price has resulted in exhorbitant cost of power generation as Ramgarh G.T.P.P. contains about 62% nitrogen, apart from gas transportation charges borne by R.S.E.B.; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to revise/fix the gas price at a reasonable level for power generation at Ramgarh G.T.P.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) RSEB, Ramgarh is entitled to a reduction in the gas price on account of its composition and has also been allowed a discount of 15% for utilising gas from a developing field.

Poverty alleviation schemes in the Ninth Five Year Plan

2790. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of poverty alleviation schemes/programmes envisaged in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) what is the State-wise break-up of funds allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the names of the areas in Madhya Pradesh proposed to be covered under the above Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The Ninth Five Year Plan is in the process of formulation. The on-going poverty alleviation programmes for self-employment and wage-employment being implemented in the rural and urban areas of the country including the State of Madhya Pradesh would continue in the Ninth Five Year Plan. They would, however, be rationalised and re-designed in order to make them more effective instruments of poverty alleviation. In addition, priority will be given to the identified seven Basic Minimum Services (BMS) with Additional Central Assistance (ACA) earmarked for these services to achieve the objective of their universal coverage in a time bound manner. The allocation of funds to the States/UTs under different poverty alleviation schemes/programmes in the Ninth Plan will be available once the Ninth Plan is finalised.

Assessment of poverty

2791. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: SHRI NAGMANI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several studies have been conducted to assess the magnitude of poverty during the course of economic reforms and also about the impact thereof but no final assessment has been made in this regard;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) what efforts have been made for propoer assessment of the poverty line;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government machinery has failed to make assessment of poverty in the light of Eighth Five Year Plan and the impact of economic reforms;

(e) whether optimum benefits could not be derived from the expenditure incurred for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The studies on poverty are generally made from the National Sample Survey (NSS) Data on Consumer Expenditure. The Planning Commission uses quinquennial NSS data on Consumer Expenditure to estimate the incidence of poverty. The incidence of poverty for the two latest periods following the recently adopted official methodology, which is based on the